

Harwood Industrial School

Annabelle Kent

THE house was half hidden in the fresh green of vines, fruit-trees and rose-bushes, these last gay with little red and yellow blossoms,—on the May Sunday the Associate Secretary spent there. The girls begged to be allowed to gather roses to wear to church. A teacher went along the line handing out the pins.

It was beautiful to see the long procession move off, each girl sweet in fresh white dress, white hair ribbon and roses. They go to the English-speaking church in the morning, to the Spanish in the afternoon and in the evening to their Epworth League meeting at home. The topic this time was honor in daily life and in the school-room. Such questions as these were asked:

How do school sports benefit character?

What is the most common form of school-room cheating?

Have you ever known any one to gain through dishonesty?

They answered, "We get so we do not want to cheat, as in basket ball, when we want to say we made a move we didn't, or in croquet, when we feel like putting the ball in position for the next play."

"Sometimes we whisper, copy some other girl's answers at arithmetic, but we are always worse off, for we do not know how to do these things right next time."

"Sometimes they gain in the thing they are trying to do, but they do not gain anything good; they lose heaven."

The Associate Secretary, who is deaf, was touched at their thoughtfulness for her; no hymn or solo was sung, or reading done, until some one had found the place for her, or

she had read the song or article. They seem to feel it such a joy to do for others.

Harwood had an attendance last year of forty-six girls, ranging in age from seven to nineteen.

In the last fourteen years the change in the Mexican homes and in the girls coming to our schools has been most marked, showing the growing refinement in the homes. The girls come with neat hair and clothing, though the supply of clothing may be scanty. They make a very pleasing picture on the street, with their rosy cheeks, bright eyes, and neat brown uniforms with red tie and hair ribbons.

The day begins at six o'clock, breakfast at seven. Before and after breakfast the house is full of busy girls, sweeping, dusting and putting things in beautiful order for the day. Besides doing the housework, the girls mend their clothing as well as make it, when they are old enough. They bake bread each day in the week except Sunday and Monday, averaging one hundred and seventy loaves a week of both wheat and graham. They learn to cook, using the plan required in the public schools, but here they begin by learning the care of utensils, removing of stains, care of the dining-room, etc.

The regular public school schedule is also used in the school-room. Our girls are doing good work in spite of the handicap which many have in their limited knowledge of English. The only Queen Esther Circle in the Conference is at Harwood. They gave Miss Guernsey's "Queens and a Kingdom", which stirred them up to work with enthusiasm.

The Domestic Science teacher says of her department:

"The work of the kitchen at Harwood has been one of pleasure notwithstanding its many moments of suspense in getting the meals *just on time*. Of course, things go wrong at times, yet the girls, with their willingness to help, make the rough places smooth. At the beginning of the month the work changes and all take on new work. Then much

interest is manifest, each girl eager to do her very best and become a good cook. At first they often make failures, but by the end of the month could you see the lovely brown gravy, the soft, fluffy potatoes, etc., and the delicious and wholesome bread they make, you could never doubt that the homes of the Spanish people will be better in the future."

Besides the regular cooking of meals, the girls have done class work during the year. Their work has been simple owing to the difficulty in grasping our language.

The addition of a basket ball and a croquet set has made the girls feel that they can do things the same as some of the other schools. Their pleasure has well repaid the effort and money put into them.

The school is now in its twentieth year of blessed work. Twenty-four years ago one could travel two hundred miles in New Mexico without finding a person who could read. Can you imagine the change in the homes and the girls that come to us? It is with great thankfulness we realize the part that Harwood has taken in this development. Letters continue to come telling of the influence of the Harwood girls upon the communities in which they live. Please continue the aid you have been giving us and above all help us with your prayers.

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150 Fifth Ave., New York City
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